

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SSO-00 DRC-01

NIC-01 EUR-25 EB-11 /178 W

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P 291245Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7281

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2352

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XX SU

SUBJ: SUDAN ATTITUDE MIDEAST DEVELOPMENTS

REF: KHARTOUM 2328

1. SUMMARY. RELIEVED MIDEAST HOT WAR APPARENTLY OVER, GOS AND SUDANESE GENERALLY SEEM HOPEFUL LASTING SETTLEMENT MAY NOT BE OBTAINABLE. THEY REMAIN CRITICAL USG ARMS RESUPPLY ISRAEL, HOWEVER, AND ARE UNCERTAIN OUR ABILITY PLAY WHAT THEY REGARD AS ESSENTIAL ROLE IN ENCOURAGING ISRAELI COOPERATION IN ANY DURABLE PEACE. ISRAELI COMPLAINTS RE "PRESSURE" ACCEPT CEASE-FIRE AND CURRENT NEWS REPORTS RE USG EFFORTS FACILITATE DISPATCH NON-MILITARY SUPPLIES TO THIRD ARMY THUS MOST HELPFUL HERE AS EARNEST OUR LONG-TERM INTENTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. AS SUDANESE EMERGE FROM THREE-DAY 'ID HOLIDAY, DOMINANT REACTION MIDEAST CEASE-FIRE CONTINUES BE ONE OF RELIEF COUPLED WITH HOPE DURABLE PEACE MAY SOMEHOW BE ATTAINED. CONTROLLED MEDIA CONTINUE CRITICAL OUR ARMS RESUPPLY ISRAEL AND LAUD "DEFEAT OF ISRAEL IN AFRICA" AS BLOW TO "INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM LED BY US". HOWEVER, GOS/USG RELATIONS APPEAR
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ESSENTIALLY UNAFFECTED SO FAR. GOVT-CONTROLLED MEDIA

AND SSU SINGLE-PARTY LEADERSHIP CRITICISM OF USG IS ATTRIBUTED BY SEVERAL SOURCES MORE TO SELF-INTERESTED GOS EFFORT USE CRISIS GENERATE INTERNAL SUPPORT THAN TO ANY UNDERLYING ANTI-USG BIAS. SEEN IN THIS CONTEXT, GOS IS SEEKING BOLSTER ITS STANDING AMONG ARAB ELEMENT POPULATION, NOTABLY (A) THOSE WHO UNENTHUSIASTIC SOUTHERN SETTLEMENT; (B) CONSERVATIVE FOLLOWERS ANTI-REGIME MOSLEM BRETHREN; AND (C) SEGMENTS OUTLAWED OLD-LINE PARTIES. NOW THAT SHOOTING STOPPED, SENIOR OFFICIALS GIVE EVERY APPEARANCE DESIRING CONTINUE BUSINESS-AS-USUAL WITH USG UNTIL/UNLESS UNFORESEEN DETERIORATION AREA SITUATION SHOULD MAKE THIS HIGH-RISK POLICY. THIS CONNECTION, PRESIDENT NIMEIRI AND OTHER TOP OFFICIALS WERE RELAXED AND CORDIAL IN EXCHANGES WITH AMBASSADOR DURING POST-RAMADHAN RECEPTION FOR CHIEFS MISSION OCT. 27.

3. SUDANESE GENERALLY APPEAR SUPPORT EGYPTIAN POSITION, BOTH RE INCEPTION FIGHTING AND SUBSEQUENT ACCEPTANCE CEASE-FIRE. SADAT IS BEING CONTRASTED FAVORABLY WITH NASSER AS RATIONAL AND PRACTICAL LEADER WHO KNEW HOW SCORE SOME MILITARY SUCCESSES BUT ALSO WAS PREPARED ADMIT PUBLICLY HE WILLING RECOGNIZE ISRAEL RIGHT TO EXIST. GOS WILL NO DOUBT CONTINUE ECHO EGYPTIAN VIEWS ON MAJOR NEW MIDEAST DEVELOPMENTS, BUT MANY SUDANESE SEEM PRIVATELY FED UP WITH REPEATED WARS AND TO YEARN FOR EXTERNAL AS WELL AS INTERNAL STABILITY. ON ECONOMIC FRONT, FOR EXAMPLE, SUDAN MAY WELL HAVE BEEN COUNTRY HIT HARDEST BY SIX-YEAR CANAL CLOSURE. TRADE AND FINANCIAL CIRCLES ALREADY TWITCHING HOPEFULLY AT POSSIBILITY SUEZ MAY AGAIN BECOME OPERATIONAL, THOUGH ONE GOS OFFICIAL HAS EXPRESSED VIEW PRIVATELY WE FAVOR KEEPING CANAL CLOSED.

4. COUPLED WITH SUCH HOPES, HOWEVER, IS CONTINUED SCEPTICISM USG INTENTIONS AND ABILITY INFLUENCE ISRAEL TO ACCEPT FAIR SETTLEMENT. FOREIGN RADIO REPORTS OUR ROLE IN HELPING ARRANGE NON-MILITARY REPROVISIONING BELEAGUERED EGYPTIAN THIRD ARMY THUS HELPFUL LOCALLY. SIMILARLY, ABILITY INDUCE IDF RPT IDF WITHDRAW TO OCT 22 CEASE-FIRE LINE IN ACCORDANCE UNSC RESOLUTION CONFIDENTIAL

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338 (WHICH, IT IS NOTED HERE, USG ITSELF CO-SPONSORED) WILL BE VIEWED BY SUDANESE AS EARNEST OF OUR DETERMINATION WORK EFFECTIVELY FOR LONG-TERM SETTLEMENT.

5. WITH EXPERIENCE OF ONLY CERTIFIED CONDOMINIUM IN HISTORY, SUDANESE (WHOSE SUSPICIONS SOVIET MACHINATIONS HERE IN 1971 STILL FRESH) HAVE BEEN PUBLICLY CRITICAL ANY USG/USSR "CONDOMINIUM" TO IMPOSE

MIDEAST SOLUTION. GOS OFFICIALS PRIVATELY TESTY OVER
INSUFFICIENT ADVANCE UNSC CONSULTATIONS PRIOR OCT 22
RESOLUTION. YET THEY SEE NO CONTRADICTION BETWEEN SUCH
ATTITUDES AND SETTLED BELIEF ONLY USG CAN ASSURE ISRAELI
COOPERATION IN EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT. WE HAVE BEEN
TAKING LINE OUR CONTACTS THAT SOBER AND RESPONSIBLE
ARAB ATTITUDE EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IN COMING WEEKS THAN
ON PART ISRAEL, SINCE IN ANY DEFINITIVE SETTLEMENT IT IS
LATTER WHO WILL HAVE TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL TERRITORIAL WITH-
DRAWALS. WHILE USG POSITION CLEAR, WE CANNOT BE
EXPECTED WORK MIRACLES NOR ACHIEVE DESIRED RESULTS
UNAIDED. KNOWLEDGEABLE SUDANESE PRIVATELY DO NOT
DISAGREE BUT THEY ARE SUSPENDING JUDGMENT AS TO WHETHER
THEIR HOPES - OR THEIR FEARS - WILL LIGHT THEIR FUTURE. BREWER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KHARTO02352
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973106/aaaaadtb.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 KHARTOUM 2328
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Jan-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <04-Feb-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUDAN ATTITUDE MIDEAST DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: XX, SU
To: SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005